Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing information to a user, the method comprising the steps of:

storing identification information extracted from a current broadcast which is being presented in a perceptible form to a user, in response to a command from the user, wherein the identification information specifies sufficient information to identify at least one deliverable information item associated with the broadcast; and

delivering at least a portion of the extracted information over a network to a server which processes the delivered information to identify the at least one deliverable information item associated with the broadcast.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the current broadcast comprises a particular piece of music.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the deliverable information item associated with the broadcast comprises a compilation which includes the piece of music.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the deliverable information item comprises a disk-based storage medium having the piece of music stored thereon.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the deliverable information item comprises a downloadable file containing the piece of music.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein the identification information comprises at least one of an artist, a title, an album name, a label identifier, a source identifier, a date, and a time associated with the current broadcast of the piece of music.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the identification information is extracted from a compressed digital audio bitstream associated with current broadcast.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein identification information is automatically extracted and stored for a plurality of distinct broadcasts upon entry of a corresponding user command.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the extracted identification information is stored in a memory of a receiver which receives the current broadcast.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the extracted identification information is stored in a removable memory device associated with a receiver which receives the broadcast, and wherein the removable memory device is removed from the receiver and inserted into another device which establishes a network connection for delivery of the identification information to the server.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the extracted identification information is delivered to the server over a network connection established over the Internet.

12. An apparatus for use in providing information to a user, the apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing identification information extracted from a current broadcast which is being presented in a perceptible form to a user, in response to a command from the user, wherein the identification information specifies sufficient information to identify at least one deliverable information item associated with the broadcast, such that at least a portion of the extracted information is delivered over a network to a server which processes the delivered information to identify the at least one deliverable information item associated with the broadcast.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the current broadcast comprises a particular piece of music.

14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the deliverable information item associated with the broadcast comprises a compilation which includes the piece of music.

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15. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the deliverable information item comprises a disk-based storage medium having the piece of music stored thereon.

16. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the deliverable information item comprises a downloadable file containing the piece of music.

17. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the identification information comprises at least one of an artist, a title, an album name, a label identifier, a source identifier, a date, and a time associated with the current broadcast of the piece of music.

18. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the identification information is extracted from a compressed digital audio bitstream associated with current broadcast.

19. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein identification information is automatically extracted and stored for a plurality of distinct broadcasts upon entry of a corresponding user command.

20. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the extracted identification information is stored in a memory of a receiver which receives the current broadcast.

21. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the extracted identification information is stored in a removable memory device associated with a receiver which receives the broadcast, and wherein the removable memory device is removed from the receiver and inserted into another device which establishes a network connection for delivery of the identification information to the server.

22. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the extracted identification information is delivered to the server over a network connection established over the Internet.

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23. An apparatus for use in providing information to a user, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver having associated therewith a storage device for storing identification information extracted from a current broadcast which is being presented in a perceptible form to a user, in response to a command from the user, wherein the identification information specifies sufficient information to identify at least one deliverable information item associated with the broadcast, such that at least a portion of the extracted information is delivered over a network to a server which processes the delivered information to identify the at least one deliverable information item associated with the broadcast.

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